

GRASSES

Wild Millet

Echinochloa muricata (Beauv.) Fernald

Family: Grass (Poaceae)

July-October

Field Marks: This grass is recognized by its usually awned, 1-flowered spikelets. It differs from the very similar barnyard grass by the firm tip on its lemmas.



Habitat: Fallow fields, in sloughs, along rivers and streams, around lakes and ponds.

Habit: Coarse perennial with tufts of fibrous roots.

Stems: Erect, smooth, branched or unbranched, up to 6 feet tall.

Leaves: Alternate, long and narrow, up to 1 1/4 inches broad, sometimes slightly rough to the touch; sheaths smooth or with broad-based hairs.

Flowers: 1 per spikelet, with many spikelets grouped to form spikes, the spikes in turn forming a panicle up to 1 foot long; spikelets ovoid, 1/6-1/4 inch long; lemmas with a firm tip, some of the lemmas usually with a terminal awn.

Grains: About 1/10 inch long.

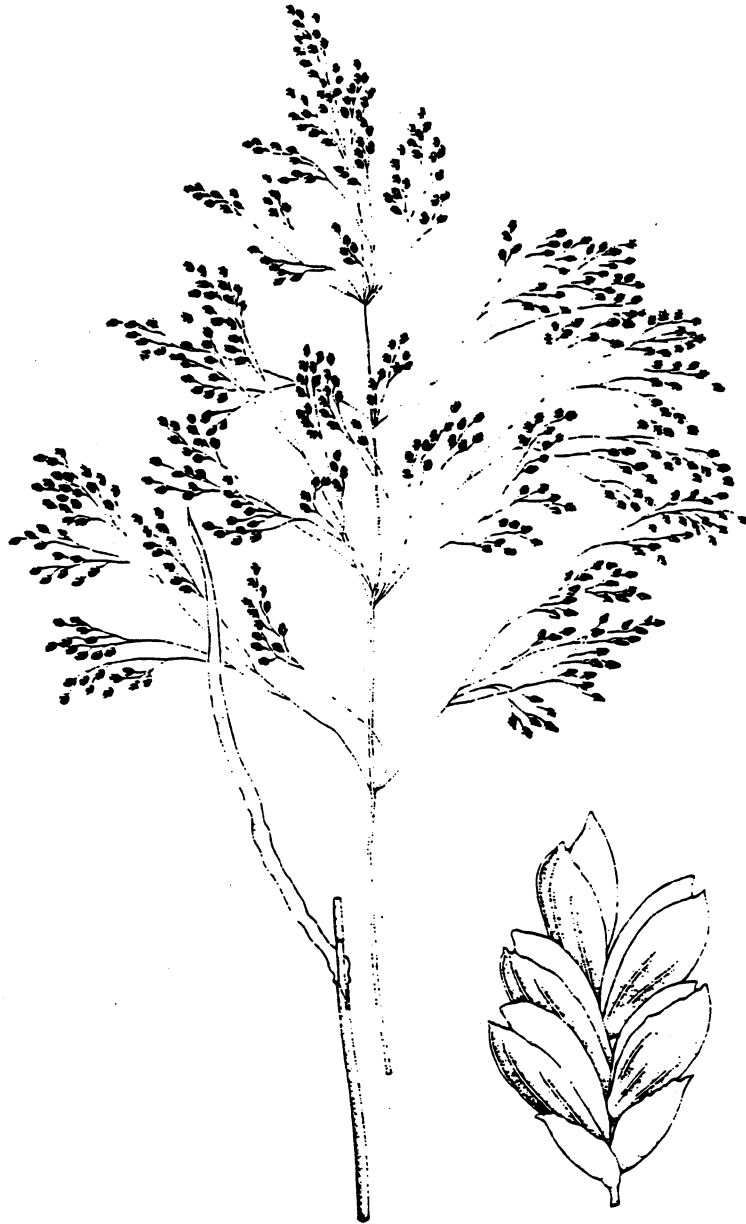
Notes: The grains are eaten by waterfowl.

Fowl Mannagrass
Glyceria striata (Lam.) A. Hitchc.

Family: Grass (Poaceae)

May-August

Field Marks: This grass is distinguished by its many-flowered, awnless spikelets less than 1/4 inch long.



Habitat: Wet meadows, low woods, bogs, roadside ditches, swamps.

Habit: Tufted perennial herb with fibrous roots or short rhizomes.

Stems: Erect, smooth, up to 4 feet tall.

Leaves: Flat or sometimes folded lengthwise, somewhat rough to the touch, up to 1/3 inch wide.

Flowers: 3-7 per spikelet, with many spikelets in slender panicles up to 1 foot long; spikelets less than 1/4 inch long.

Stamens: 3.

Pistils: Ovary superior.

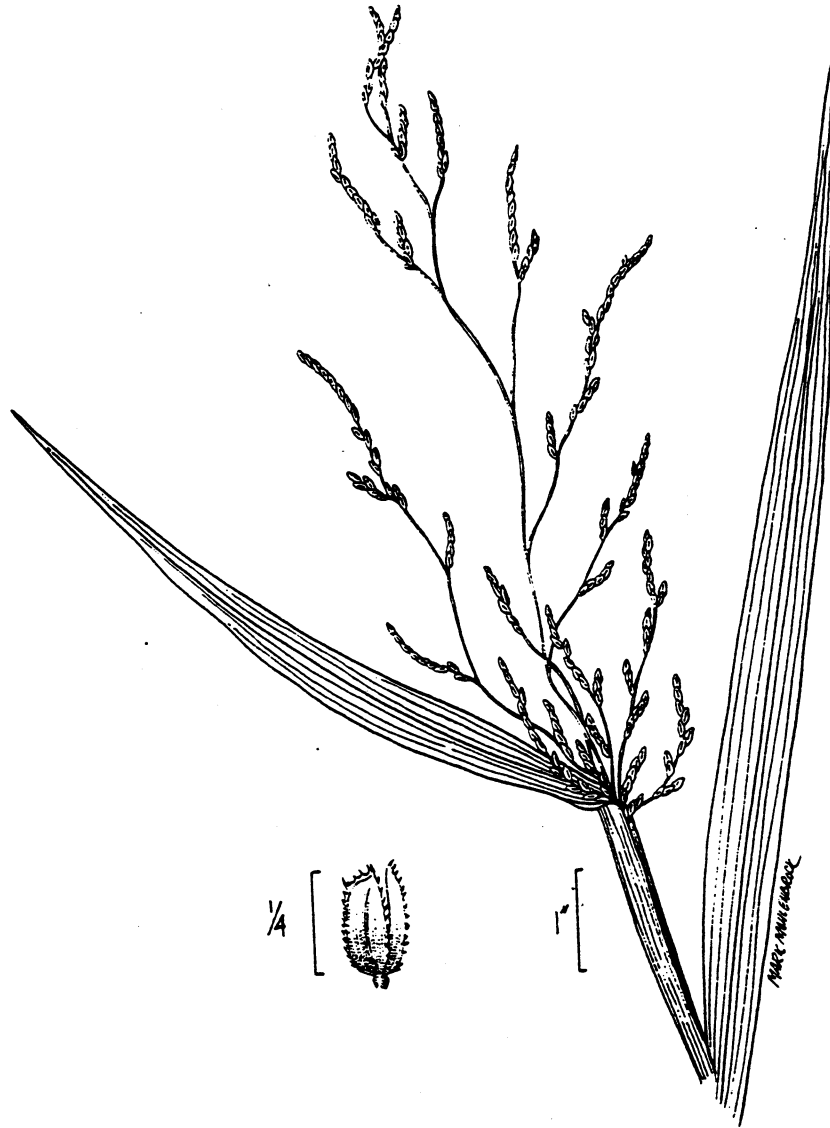
Grains: Shiny, reddish, 1/20 inch long.

Rice Cutgrass
Leersia oryzoides (L.) Swartz

Family: Grass (Poaceae)

June-October

Field Marks: This species is recognized by its rough, saw-toothed leaf edges and its spikelets 1/6-1/4 inch long.



Habitat: Swamps, sloughs, around ponds and lakes, wet meadows, roadside ditches.

Habit: Perennial herbs from slender rhizomes.

Stems: Ascending to erect, branched, usually smooth, up to 5 feet tall.

Leaves: Flat, elongated, up to 1/2 inch wide, with small but sharp-cutting teeth along the edges.

Flowers: 1 per spikelet, with many spikelets arranged in a panicle up to 8 inches long; each spikelet greenish-white, oblong, 1/6-1/4 inch long.

Stamens: 3.

Pistils: Ovary superior; styles 3.

Grains: Red-brown, ellipsoid, 1/8 inch long.

Notes: The saw-toothed leaf edges can readily tear the flesh.

Faber Bristlegrass

Setaria faberi Herrm.

Family: Grass (Poaceae)

July-October

Field Marks: This species is recognized by its arching, soft-bristly spikes at least 3 inches long.



Habitat: Fields and generally any disturbed habitat.

Habit: Coarse annual herb with fibrous roots.

Stems: Erect, smooth or slightly hairy at the nodes, up to 4 feet tall.

Leaves: Up to 8 inches long, up to 1 inch broad, hairy on the upper surface, with ciliate sheaths.

Flowers: 1 per spikelet, with many spikelets crowded into an arching spike up to 5 inches long; each spikelet subtended by 1-3 soft bristles up to 1 inch long.

Stamens: 3.

Pistils: Ovary superior.

Grains: Usually enclosed by scales.

Notes: The usual common names for this species are giant foxtail or nodding foxtail.